

COMMEMORATING THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 613 ethnic Azerbaijani civilians who were killed during the massacre at Khojaly, in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, on February 25–26, 1992. According to Human Rights Watch, Memorial Human Rights Center, and other international observers, the Khojaly tragedy was committed by the ethnic Armenian armed forces, reportedly with the assistance of the Russian 366th Motor Rifle Regiment. At the time, the massacre at Khojaly was described by Human Rights Watch as “the largest massacre to date in the conflict” over Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan. Largely condemned by the international community, in 2001 at least 30 members of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe stated in Written Declaration No. 324 that the “Armenians massacred the whole population of Khojaly and fully destroyed the town.” Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the town and people of Khojaly who died on those fateful days and in offering our deepest condolences to Azerbaijan on this tragic anniversary.

HONORING MR. JOHN EMERSON

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor both a colleague and friend—Mr. John Emerson—who is retiring from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration after 30 years of Federal service.

John began his career in public service as a volunteer fireman on Long Island. He then worked as a Border Patrol Agent for the Immigration and Naturalization Service where he protected our borders from illegal immigration and drug smugglers.

He joined the Drug Enforcement Administration in 1984. He worked in New York, Los Angeles, Bolivia, and Virginia before being named the Assistant Special Agent in Charge for North Carolina. In all of these posts, he was instrumental in successfully fighting drug trafficking.

The work that John has done to combat illegal drugs in our state is immense. For example, under his leadership and tireless work with local law enforcement, over 70 clandestine methamphetamine laboratories were discovered in Western North Carolina. Since then, lab seizures in Western North Carolina have dropped by over fifty percent.

He was also a vital proponent of having our area labeled as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Under this designation, our local and state law enforcement agencies will have access to the resources they need in order to fight drug trafficking in our state.

As a mayor of Charlotte, I've seen firsthand the negative effect that drug dealers and drug trafficking can have on a community. John has

spent his life going after dangerous drug smugglers in order to keep communities across the globe safe. His work cannot be understated—his career is one that has truly made a difference.

Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Mr. John Emerson's service to his country today, and I'm proud to say that our area is a safer one because of his work.

HONORING ELI JAMES COOPER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Eli James Cooper. Eli is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Eli has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Eli has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Eli has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Eli James Cooper for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING RICHARD “DICK” ALLEN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Board of Education Member and former President, Richard “Dick” Allen and congratulate him as he approaches his well-earned retirement.

Mr. Allen's career in public service demonstrates his lifelong commitment to the students, parents, staff and communities of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, MDUSD, and I am grateful to him for his service to my constituents.

For the past 55 years, Mr. Allen has been an excellent teacher, mentor, respected collaborator, student advocate, leader and school board member. He has no doubt nurtured hundreds of students as they developed their skills to become productive leaders and citizens.

Mr. Allen's dedication is evidenced in the Dick Allen Award which was named in his honor. This award was established in 2006 to recognize someone or a group of people who have contributed above and beyond to the alternative education students and programs of alternative high schools in MDUSD. The first award was presented to Mr. Allen as he was the original administrator of alternative education programs in the MDUSD and a strong supporter of alternative education in general.

This is just one small example of his remarkable leadership and dedication to excellence in education.

As Mr. Allen retires, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank him publicly for his service. Our children, their families, and our entire community have benefitted immensely from his work. His is a lasting legacy and I join with his family, colleagues, and friends in congratulating him on a long and highly successful career and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

THE RETIREMENT OF MRS. FLOREINE MENTEL

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a fine public servant, a community leader and a dear friend of mine, Mrs. Floreine Mentel, on the occasion of her retirement.

Floreine M. Mentel is retiring from a teaching career of 50 years, including her most recent service as a Monroe County Adult Education and a G.E.D. examiner. Floreine has dedicated her life to service, both for the people she taught and the community she lives in. She has set a tremendous example for her community and proven without any doubt that one person's involvement does make a difference. For 14 years she served as a Monroe County Commissioner, helping to lead the County with wisdom, and intelligence and passion. In addition to this public service, Floreine has given her time and talents to numerous groups such as the Monroe County 4-H; the Area Agency on Aging 1-B; the Monroe Women's Center; the Monroe County Historical Society and many others. She was especially instrumental in helping to build the necessary community support for the new River Raisin National Battlefield Park.

I wish Floreine and Bill, her husband of more than 50 years, many more years of happiness together and enjoyment in retirement. Floreine is a remarkable public servant, a dedicated community member and an incredibly wonderful human being.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on January 26, 2011 and I wish to state how I would have voted had I been present: Rollcall No. 22, “no”; Rollcall No. 23, “yes”; Rollcall No. 24, “yes”; Rollcall No. 25, “no”.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF THE NAACP

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the

founding of the New York Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On January 27, 1911, exactly 100 years ago today, the New York Branch of the NAACP received its Charter. Organized by Executive Committee members Mary White Ovington, Charles H. Suddins, Frances Blascoer, Oswald Garrison Villard, Gilchrist Stewart, Joel E. and Arthur Spingarn, the New York Branch was the first Branch established in the National Association's history.

In April 1911, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois proposed that the Branch should have an investigator and organizer to examine cases and complaints, to raise funds and develop a "forum for discussion." Gilchrist Stewart, a young attorney, was chosen to fill this role and become Chairman of the New York Branch Vigilance Committee. In the fall of 1911, the Branch opened in Harlem where "colored people could report any cases of injustice before the law." During the first six months, three cases were handled involving police brutality, which led to the trial and suspension of one police officer.

The New York Branch had successful campaigns to break up the pattern of theatre segregation. Despite these activities, the Branch was adversely affected by a lack of stability. In December 1913, the Board decided that the New York Vigilance Committee be reorganized and focus on fundraising for the National Association. The legal work handled by the Vigilance Committee was transferred to the National NAACP office, which by then, had a full-time lawyer.

At one time, the New York Branch became inactive, and when the NAACP Annual Report was published in 1916, the Branch was not listed. According to historian Charles Flint Kellogg, the original charter had been lost. Since there was no record of its date of issue, a new charter had been issued on November 11, 1917, when James Weldon Johnson succeeded in organizing a Harlem Branch and became its Vice President. That same year, Ms. Mary White-Ovington secured approval from the NAACP National Board, to enroll those individuals who participated in the 1917 Silent March on 5th Avenue. Each individual received a compensation of \$1 while serving as a member of the branch for the duration of 1 year.

During the fall of 1931, the New York Branch reverted back to an inactive status, and the NAACP National office enlisted Field Organizer, Daisy Lampkin to conduct a membership campaign which ended on October 2, 1931. As a result of the campaign, 500 new members were enrolled and \$3,323.00 was raised. As a result, the Branch was reorganized and granted a renewed charter on November 9, 1931. Since that date, the New York Branch has been one of the largest leading membership Branches of the NAACP.

Led by its President, Dr. Annie B. Martin, the New York (Harlem) Branch is continuing to work steadfastly on the front lines of the fight for justice. The Unit played a prominent role in the "Overground Railroad" demonstrations over voter registration concerns, started a Saturday program to help students develop study habits, and held legal redress forums, community health fairs and civic engagement activities.

James E. Allen also served as president of the New York branch and later helped to orga-

nize and become the first New York State Conference President. Other former presidents of the organization include: Ella Baker, Russell Crawford, Jawn Sandifer, Lionel Barrow, Lind H. White, I. Joseph Overton, Hon. Percy E. Sutton, Hon. Basil A. Paterson, Richard A. Hildebrand, Jeff L. Greenup, Carl Lawrence and the current president Dr. Annie B. Martin.

HONORING ALEXANDER BRYCE HAGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Bryce Hager. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Alexander has earned the Arrow of Light and the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Alexander has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Alexander renovated a cabin at the United Methodist Church of Chillicothe, Missouri, by leveling the floors, painting the exterior, repairing the roof and constructing a deck for the cabin.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Bryce Hager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CELEBRATING THE CABRILLO CIVIC CLUBS OF CALIFORNIA 76TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California on this memorable occasion of their 76th Annual Convention. I am especially honored to welcome all of the members of the Cabrillo Civic Clubs, traditionally known as "Cabrillians" to Lemoore, California, located in the heart of the 20th Congressional District.

Organized in January 1934 and chartered on December 19 of that same year, the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California was created by Californians of Portuguese descent to promote the legacy of Portuguese mariner João Rodrigues Cabrilho who is credited with the discovery of California. Early efforts to create awareness of the Portuguese compatriot resulted in two milestones, both in 1935, with the establishment of a statewide Cabrillo Day observed annually on September 28 and the creation of a Cabrillo National Monument in Point Loma, California. Cabrillians have suc-

ceeded in having State Highway 1 christened the "Cabrillo Highway" in 1957 and in fostering the issuance of a U.S. postal stamp in João Rodrigues Cabrilho's honor in 1992.

Today, Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California members remain dedicated to the principals of their pioneer forefathers in the Golden State. With 12 chapters and an active membership boasting over 2,800 individuals, Cabrillians continue to engage in opportunities that promote and enhance civic progress. Special events, such as the San Diego Cabrillo Festival, Portuguese Immigrant Week and local Festas Portuguesas, allow Cabrillians to share and create awareness of Portuguese customs and traditions in communities across California. As Americans born of Portuguese immigrants, Cabrillo Civic Club members are proud to live the American dream and have a deep commitment to making meaningful contributions to their communities. Cabrillians dedicate their time and resources to innumerable charitable activities, including: organizing blood drives, fund raising for polio and cancer research, assisting candidates for U.S. citizenship, and providing college scholarships for students of Portuguese descent. Cabrillians are able to give back to our communities in so many important ways throughout our great Golden State.

As a son of Portuguese immigrants, I am very proud of the efforts made by the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California that keep the legacy of my Portuguese ancestors alive and a part of the rich ethnic and cultural fabric of America. I ask my colleagues to rise with me today to express our sincere appreciation to the Cabrillo Civic Clubs of California for their extraordinary contributions to California and wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

HONORING MARY E. BRYANT

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to herald the achievements of Mary E. Bryant and to acknowledge our pride in her valuable contributions to the Tampa Bay community, Hillsborough County Public Schools, and the students she loved.

Mary Bryant was a Tampa native who grew up in the Jim Crow era, when it was toughest for African-Americans to receive equal rights. She attended Middleton High School and graduated in 1951. Although neither of her parents completed high school, they worked hard to ensure that their daughter would accomplish what they could not. Her father worked as a truck driver, while her mom worked as a maid and presser at a local dry cleaning business.

After graduating from Middleton, Mary went on to earn a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Bethune-Cookman College in 1955. She then completed a master's degree from Florida A&M University and a doctorate from University of South Florida. She was a lifelong educator, working hard to inspire children for more than 40 years. After working in Okeechobee for several years, she began her career in Hillsborough County as a teacher and learning specialist at Henderson Elementary in 1968. In 1971, she became the principal of Phillip Shore Elementary and then at Roland Park in 1974.